



JOSEPH E. KERNAN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF INDIANA  
STATE CAPITOL  
INDIANAPOLIS 46204

(317) 232-4545  
FAX (317) 232-4788

For immediate release:  
September 27, 2002

Contact: Tina Noel, 317/232-4789  
Cheryl Orr, 317/464-4400, ext.19

**KERNAN ANNOUNCES STATEWIDE INTERNSHIP PROJECT TO  
INCREASE AWARENESS OF IN-STATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR INDIANA COLLEGE STUDENTS**

(Indianapolis) – Job opportunities for Indiana college students are numerous – but sometimes, they just don't know how or where to find them.

In an effort to tackle this lack of awareness, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan today announced a new internship project aimed at hooking up students with Indiana businesses.

The Sallie Mae Trust for Education has awarded the Indiana Commission for Higher Education funding to work with college faculty throughout the state to incorporate internships with Indiana employers into academic programs.

"Strengthening a student's college course work with professional experience is a win-win for all involved," Kernan said at the University of Indianapolis this morning. "Students gain valuable work experience and employers find that internships are one of the most effective methods of finding and recruiting qualified college graduates. Clearly, this is an initiative that will play an important role in expanding the linkages between our college students and our employers."

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, over 50 percent of internships lead to full-time jobs. Eighty-three percent (83%) of Fortune 500's top 100 companies employ interns as a primary recruiting strategy.

"We are excited about being a catalyst for bringing the state's higher education and business communities together," said June McCormack, executive vice president for Sallie Mae.

The underlying goal of the project is to work toward incorporating an internship or practical learning opportunity into every student's college experience. The project's first year will include collecting data regarding existing internships and working with faculty to expand current internship programs and develop new credit-bearing internship opportunities.

- MORE -

College faculty are enthusiastic about the merits of internships.

“We see a significant difference in students who participate in practical learning experiences. They come to class more energized to learn because they’ve seen first-hand how what they are learning in college relates to what employers need and expect,” said Dr. James Conrad, dean of the University of Indianapolis School of Business, where all students are guaranteed a professional experience as part of their college program.

The Commission’s project will build on the Indiana INTERNnet initiative, which was created by the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce in 2001 to encourage Indiana businesses to offer internships and to promote these opportunities among Indiana college students.

INTERNnet’s Web-based search and matching system currently connects students to internships with more than 650 Indiana employers.

“We know that more than 80 percent of students work while they go to college, but currently very few of the jobs they hold are connected to their academic and career pursuits,” said Stan Jones, commissioner for Higher Education. “We hope this project will assist students with finding work experience that is more relevant to their professional goals.”

The Sallie Mae Fund is the philanthropic arm of SLM Corporation. The Fund achieves its mission – to increase access to a post-secondary education for America’s children – by supporting programs and initiatives that help open doors to higher education, prepare families for their investment, and bridge the gap where no one else can.

- END -